

# BY-LAWS OF THE CHICAGO OKINAWA KENJINKAI, INC.

## ARTICLE 1

### NAME

The name of the **not-for-profit corporation** shall be CHICAGO OKINAWA KENJINKAI, INC. **The name shall be used exclusively by the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai, Inc. The State of Illinois maintains annual record filings of the corporation.**

## ARTICLE 2

### PURPOSE

The purposes of this organization shall be:

- 1) to promote goodwill and friendship among those interested in the Okinawan culture;
- 2) to promote educational opportunity;
- 3) to promote cultural education through sponsoring of performances; and
- 4) enhance the understanding of Okinawan culture.

The specific objectives include publishing a seasonal newsletter with articles related to the latest activities of our members and their children and articles of interest to the members; sponsoring touring culture groups from Okinawa to demonstrate live performances; and providing an annual scholarship to a high school graduate of Okinawan ancestry.

## ARTICLE 3

### MEMBERSHIP

- a) The membership of this organization shall be any adult and his/her family who is a resident of the United States of America who supports the purposes or objectives of this organization.
- b) The officers shall determine the annual dues.
- c) The membership year extends from the first day of January to the thirty-first day of December and may be renewed anytime during the year.
- d) **No person shall be denied membership on the basis of race, color, sex, age, sexual orientation or religion.**

## **ARTICLE 4**

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The officers shall be selected from the membership and be comprised of the following:

President -1  
Vice President -1  
Secretary -1  
Treasurer -1  
Sergeant-at-Arms -1

Website and Social Media Administrator -1  
Committee Chairpersons - Varies (determined by officers)  
Board of Trustees – Varies (determined by officers)

The term of the officers shall be 2 (two) years.  
Any officer can be re-elected and serve as many terms as he/she wishes.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

- a) The President shall represent the organization, preside over the meetings, and shall oversee all activities of the organization. **The President shall appoint committees as necessary.**
- b) The Vice President shall serve as a substitute for the President in case of his/her absence and shall be in charge of planning and preparing events.
- c) The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the organization and keep updated files on members.
- d) The treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds and shall take care of the organization's financial matters. The Treasurer is empowered to make payments or write checks from the organization's bank account if directed by the President. **The Treasurer shall maintain a list of all members whose dues are current and notify those who are not current.**
- e) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall assist in planning and arranging events as necessary.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- a) The election of officers shall be held at the annual meeting in March of every second year. The newly elected officers shall take over the office in April of the same year.

- b) All members are entitled to nominate candidates in writing to the Secretary.  
Any individuals nominating an officer must identify themselves and be a member in good standing.
- c) Vacancies: a vacancy shall be filled by the President with approval of the officers.
- d) Procedure for removal of Officers from office:  
Reasonable causes for removal from office include but not limited to non-payment of dues, missing funds, missing property, conflict of interest, failure to cooperate with officers and trustees, and taking any action against the interests of the kenjinkai.  
The officers shall call a special meeting and have at least 51% of the officers in attendance vote for or against removal from office.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

A One-thousand (\$1000) scholarship will be awarded every year to a high school senior currently enrolled in an undergraduate program at an accredited college or university. Undergraduate college students will be considered only if there are no qualified high school senior applicants by the deadline.

Applicant must provide an official school transcript from their current school indicating a grade point average of at least 3.0 or higher. Transcript must be submitted along with application and essay.

Applicants must submit a 500-1000 word essay detailing their aspirations for the future and how the award will help them benefit the Okinawan community. The primary reason this scholarship was created was to keep the Okinawa culture tradition and culture alive for future generations.

Applicant must be of Okinawan descent or be related to an active Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai member, who has been with our kenjinkai for a minimum of three years.

Only one scholarship will be awarded per recipient.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the By-Laws may be amended or revised at the annual meeting and shall require approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the members either present at the meeting or corresponding by mail.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### **RESTRICTIONS**

- a) Officers and members are prohibited from profiting for their own personal use or business gain by solicitation of members, or by using the name of the organization, "Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai" or any variation thereof.
- b) The Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai is prohibited from participating in political propaganda, attempting to influence legislation, or participate or intervene in any political campaign of any candidate for public office of any nation.
- c) Scholarships will not be awarded to any relative of an officer who is currently serving their term or board member serving on the board.
- d) The Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai and its representatives are prohibited from discriminating against any group concerning participation in a performance.

## **ARTICLE 10**

### **DISSOLUTION CLAUSE**

Upon dissolution of the organization, the officers shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the organization, dispose of all the assets of the organization exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such a manner, or to such organization or organization organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United State Internal Revenue Law) as the officers shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such proposed or to such organization of organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated for such purposes.

<End>

By-Laws

Dated: July 11, 1999

Amended : March 26, 2020

Attachments: Statement of Classification dated June 14, 2000

Responses to IRS Questions from the IRS dated Feb. 15, 2000